

Docket Number 06-SPPE-2
First Round Data Requests
El Centro Unit 3 Repower Project
July 2006

DATA REQUEST #6
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

BACKGROUND

The razorback sucker is a state and federal listed endangered fish species. The discussion of Impact BIO 11 - Water Uptake and Discharge and Razorback Sucker on page 6.3-35 indicates that the “potential for federal and state ‘take’ due to entrainment in the IID canal system has been provided for through IID’s participation in the LCRMSCP.” Given IID’s participation in the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCRMSCP), the impact to razorback sucker was considered not significant.

DATA REQUEST

6. Please provide a description of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, its applicability to the project area, and its specific mitigation measures regarding the razorback sucker.
 - a. Please describe the measures used to avoid “take” related to the razorback sucker.

DATA RESPONSE

The LCRMSCP was developed to address threatened and endangered species along the lower Colorado River. IID has been involved in the LCRMSCP since its development stage of this conservation program. The LCRMSCP applicability with respect to the Unit 3 Repower Project and more specifically the razorback sucker is through the coverage IID receives as a result of the water drawn from the lower Colorado River (Reach 5) at the Imperial Dam (see Section 2.3.1.5 of the LCRMSCP Habitat Conservation Plan). As a result of IID drawing water from the Colorado River at the Imperial Dam, the razorback sucker becomes entrained in IID’s irrigation system. The LCRMSCP provides for take of the razorback sucker at the Imperial Dam and assumes that all entrained fish at the intake structure are considered take under the federal Endangered Species Act and California Endangered Species Act. Therefore, the LCRMSCP includes any take of the species further down stream in IID’s irrigation system, including ECGS.

As a participating member of the LCRMSCP, IID provides financial and general support for the mitigation measures contained within the LCRMSCP Habitat Conservation Plan:

- Coordinate razorback sucker conservation efforts with the USFWS and recovery programs for endangered fish species in the Lower Basin.
- Create 360 acres of razorback sucker habitat.

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- Stocking up to 600,000 sub-adult razorback suckers into critical habitat.
- Developing additional razorback sucker rearing capacity.
- Support ongoing razorback sucker conservation efforts.
- Support monitoring and research of razorback sucker augmentation and created habitat.